

HISTORY / DRAMA · Y3–Y6

# A Victorian School Day

Class play script — Y3–Y6

## Cast and context

Set in 1875, a board school in a

- NARRATOR × 2
- MR BRIGGS — the schoolmaster (strict, formal)
- PUPILS × 10–15 (all named characters with at least one line)
- SCHOOL INSPECTOR × 1
- MONITOR PUPIL × 1 (older pupil who helps teacher)
- CHORUS — all pupils speak key lines together
- Setting: a single large classroom, chalk slates, wooden benches, no heating



**Scene 1 — Morning at the board school**

NARRATOR 1: The year is 1875. In a mill town in the north of England, sixty children are crammed into a single room. There is one teacher, Mr Briggs. He carries a cane. PUPILS: [whispering] Is he in a good mood today? Did you finish your tables? MR BRIGGS: [entering sharply] SILENCE. Hands on slates. We begin. MONITOR: Stand. Sit. Good morning, Mr Briggs. MR BRIGGS: Good morning. Today you will practise your multiplication tables. From the beginning. Class — together. CHORUS: One two is two. Two twos are four. Three twos are six. Four twos are eight... MR BRIGGS: Faster! You are not thinking. You are reciting. There is a difference. PUPIL 1: [quietly, to neighbour] I can't remember seven eights. PUPIL 2: [whispering] Fifty-six. Don't get it wrong — he'll call you out. MR BRIGGS: You there — stand up. Seven eights. PUPIL 1: [standing, nervous] Seven eights are... fifty... six, sir. MR BRIGGS: Correct. This time. Sit down.

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